



January 28, 2016

Statement from Department of Water Resources Director Mark W. Cowin on the State Water Resources Control Board pre-hearing conference today on the DWR and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation petition requesting changes in water rights for the California WaterFix:

“We welcome the Water Board’s hearing process and expect a thorough vetting of concerns about our proposal to construct new intakes on the Sacramento River. We respect the Board’s difficult task in balancing competing uses of water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Through the Water Board hearings over the coming months, we intend to demonstrate how we will upgrade infrastructure of statewide importance while protecting fish and wildlife and addressing the legitimate concerns of other water users who depend upon the Delta.

“When and wherever possible, we have modified our proposed project to avoid or minimize potential negative effects on local communities, others who depend upon the Delta for water supplies, and fish and wildlife. We’ll continue to listen to concerns and adjust the proposed project where possible. We welcome any discussion and negotiation on any set of issues regarding the California WaterFix petitions for new points of diversion.”

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While the early winter rain and snowpack are promising, this may yet prove to be a fifth consecutive year of drought in California. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water; find out how at SaveOurWater.com.



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